

**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP**

**Recommendation on the SOHO mission extension**

The Solar System Working Group (SSWG), at its 106<sup>th</sup> meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> part) held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, made the following recommendation:

The ESA / NASA SOHO mission has revolutionized our understanding of the Sun. It has led to major breakthroughs in our understanding of the solar interior, visible surface, corona and the solar wind during the rise and maximum of the present solar cycle. It has played a significant role in the study of the Sun-Earth connection.

The proposed extension of the mission by four years to the end of March 2007 will permit the study of the solar magnetic field and its consequences on solar activity through the declining phase of the solar cycle. Especially important is the peak of solar-related geomagnetic activity during this phase and its implication on our understanding of solar magnetism.

Given the outstanding success of SOHO and the compelling science expected from the extension, the SSWG recommends unanimously that SOHO operations be continued through March 2007.